

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1649 with a release date of Friday, March 20th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Civil unrest causes a DXpedition to be cancelled in Bangladesh, a radio club loses its fight to remain in a New York City museum, a new study shows that walking and talking on a cellphone can be hazardous to your health, experts say that 5 Mhz should be a band to watch and the story of ham radio and the American Boy. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1649 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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BREAKING DX NEWS: DXPEDITION TO BANGLADESH ON HOLD DUE VTO CIVIL UNREST

A civil war has put a halt to a long anticipated DXpedition. Bill Paternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with more:

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Political unrest has led to the cancellation of a long awaited DX operation to Bangladesh. This with word that members of the Korea DX Club had to postpone their operation from Dhaka due to a civil war that has broken out in the city.

The report from the team mentions that the situation was chaotic and that their S21KD was cancelled when they first arrived. They did eventually get a new license and S21CZY call sign. They also moved to another location 2 1/2 hours away.

The team hoped to be on the air that day but could not retrieve the radio gear from the airport. As safety was the team's first priority they cancelled the operation and headed back home.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF

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The group hopes to get another chance to operate from Bangladesh once the civil unrest subsides and they can schedule a new date. For updates please visit <http://dexpedition.co.kr> on the World Wide Web. (Southgate)

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BREAKING DX NEWS: 6 METER EME DXPEDITION TO THE COOK ISLANDS

A 6 meter EME DXpedition to the South Cook Islands is now slated for moonrise on Thursday March 26, with the last 6 meter activity probably be the moonrise window on Saturday April 4 GMT. This with word that Lance Collister, W7GJ, and Bob Sutton Z11RS are meeting in Rarotonga at the end of March to activate E51 on EME on both the 6 and 2 meter bands.

Unless otherwise indicated after we get there, the 6 meter operation will take place on 50.190 Mhz. Collister will be at the controls of the 6 meter station using the call sign E51SIX from grid square BG08dr

Collister says that 6 meter QSL requests go to E51SIX slash W7GJ, Lance Collister, P.O. Box 73, Frenchtown, Montana, 59834-9973 in the USA Please include a self addressed envelope with sufficient return postage.

By the way, if the name Lance Collister and his Frenchtown, Montana, home address sound familiar its because he was the first ham on good old mother Earth to contact space adventurer Owen Garriott, W5LFL, during the STS-9 space shuttle mission. That took place way back in November of 1983 when Collister held the call sign WA1JXN.

We will have more DX related news later on in this weeks report (OPDX)

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NEWSLINE FOLLOW-UP: HALL OF SCIENCE ARC LIKELY TO BE EVICTED FROM ITS NAMESAKE

New York City's historic Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club appears to have lost its fight to retain a station at its namesake home of 35 years. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has the latest on the clubs hunt for a new home:

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Despite a cordial meeting and demonstration of amateur radio with the museum's boss, Thomas Tumino, N2YTF, says it appears very unlikely WB2JSM will ever be activated again from the Hall of Science.

"I would say that there is a 90 percent chance that it is all over at the Hall of Science," Tumino says.

You might recall a few months ago, we told you how the museum, located in Flushing Meadows on the site where the World's Fair was held in the mid-1960s, had asked the club to take down its antennas during a renovation project.

It then banned them from putting them back up and began talking about ousting the organization.

That sparked an on-line petition drive which netted some 13-hundred signatures.

But Tumino, president of the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club, concedes that hasn't changed the museum's mind.

An item in the New York Daily News recently quoted a museum official as saying there isn't room for the amateur radio station.

Tumino says there were discussions with the museum about putting the ham radio exhibit on a cart on wheels with remote control of the radios. That's the 10 percent chance of return Tumino is talking about.

But, he concedes that's slim, and the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club in New York, is now looking elsewhere for a home.

"A well-known New York City area ham, has kind of taken up our cause to some extent and is helping us with that," Tumino says. "So, we don't know yet whether that's a set solution, moving to another museum within the New York City limits.

"But that also looks very promising and we've already had one meeting with that institution and hope to schedule a second."

While Tumino declined to identify that museum for fear of jeopardizing negotiations, he did say it may be in one of New York's boroughs - but not in Queens.

He did say it's an ideal operating location for amateur radio, especially emergency communications.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

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If you would like to sign the petition to help keep the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club at New York City's Hall of Science, please take your web browser to <http://tinyurl.com/6ljost> (ARNewsline(tm))

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RADIO SAFETY: CELLPHONES VS. PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES

First it was driving with a cellphone that was tagged as a dangerous act. Now its just walking along while chatting that is coming under attack in a new study released on March 8th. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, is in Reno with more:

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A new study by Rutgers University Economics Professor Peter D. Loeb and his associates says that cellular phones as related to accidents are a danger on the road in more ways than one. Hi study along with another show that talking on the phone while traveling, whether you're driving or on foot, is increasing both pedestrian deaths and those of drivers and passengers.

One of the new studies, lead-authored by Dr Loeb, relates the impact of cell phones on accident fatalities to the actual number of cell phones in use. It purports to show that the current increase in deaths attributed to cell phone use follows a period when cell phones actually helped to reduce pedestrian and traffic fatalities. However, the study also found this reduction in fatalities disappeared once the numbers of phones in use reached a critical mass usership of 100 million.

Loeb and his co-author determined that, at the current time, cell phone use has a significant adverse effect on pedestrian safety and that cell phones and their usage above a critical threshold adds to motor vehicle fatalities. Loeb says that in the late 1980s and part of the 1990s, before

the numbers of phones in use exploded, cell phone use actually had a life-saving effect in pedestrian and traffic accidents. Loeb notes that cellphone users were able to quickly call for medical assistance when involved in an accident and hypothesizes that this quick medical response actually reduced the number of traffic deaths for a time. But says the report, this life-saving effect was canceled out once the numbers of phones reached a critical mass" of about 100 million and the life-taking effect where increased accidents and fatalities began to outweigh the benefits of quick access to 911 services. Another study titled "The Cell Phone Effect on Pedestrian Fatalities" from Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts also looked at pedestrian fatalities related to cell phone use.

And why should these studies be of interest to ham radio operators? Call it possible guilt by association.

Its well known that both the public and law makers tend to lump anything that looks like a cellphone as being one. Also, as seen with the current spate of state laws dealing with mobile cellphone use, regulators tend to make sweeping all-inclusive regulations that affect everything in sight rather than targeting a problem. With both reports recommending that that governments consider more aggressive policies to reduce cell phone use by both drivers and pedestrians, its reasonable to assume that anyone carrying anything that even resembles a cellphone might one day be affected. And a lot of today's tiny H-T's can easily be mistaken for a cellphone as has been the case.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

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Also remember that its been almost a half century since Class D CB was created and even today most people and political leaders really do not know the difference between it and amateur radio. More on these twin reports are at www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/03/090304160404.htm (Rutgers University, Science Daily)

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BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KD1RJ repeater serving Fairfield, Connecticut.

(5 sec pause here)

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RESCUE RADIO: NWS CHANGES HAIL REPORTING CRITERIA

Winds of change are sweeping across Indiana, in an effort to streamline the Severe Thunderstorm Warning Criteria. Beginning April 1, 2009, reporting stations and Skywarn spotters will begin reporting hail that is one inch or larger. Previous reports looked for hail that was pea size or larger.

McCarthy audio: " Usually damage begins at one and a quarter size hail rather than warning for hail that is penny size or smaller."

Dan McCarthy, Meteorologist in Charge of the Indianapolis National Weather Office, says parameters for reporting wind speed have also been refined. He says winds reaching 58 miles per hour are now considered a threat. At 60 miles per hour tree branches break and trees begin to uproot.

McCarthy: " The whole idea is to provide a more precise service for the public."

This change in criteria comes following a four year study of hail damage and the issuance of Severe Thunderstorm Warnings in Kansas and the central plains. The study found one inch hail rather than the historical three-quarter inch threshold as a better indicator for Thunderstorm Warnings. Illinois, Iowa and Missouri will join Kansas and Indiana April 1st to change the hail stone criteria.

N-W-S officials felt the public was becoming desensitized by numerous warnings being issued for marginal hail sizes. McCarty say this new criteria should cut down on the number of warnings and cut down on the number of programming interruptions that local broadcast stations are forced to make for Severe Thunderstorm Warnings.

McCarthy audio: "We'll be able to warn people of more damaging hail than the smaller hail."

The bottom line is fewer Severe Thunderstorm Warnings. And when Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are issued, the storms will have the potential to cause damage.

From Indianapolis, this is Jack Parker, W8ISH. (W8ISH, ARNewsline(tm))

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RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO TAKES PART IN NC NWS TORNADO DRILL

Ham radio has participated in a major emergency training drill in North Carolina. Amateur Radio Newsline's Randy Ross, KI4ZJI, has the details:

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At 9:30AM local time on Wednesday, March 4th, the National Weather Service issued a simulated tornado warning for several counties in North Carolina. Almost immediately, members of the Cleveland County Amateur Radio Service, Foothills Weather Net, and Rutherford County ARES were activated. The groups worked closely with the National Weather Service forecast office to coordinate with amateur radio severe weather spotters. As a result, the National Weather Service was able to solicit weather reports and other information related to the drill from amateur radio operators from Asheville to Charlotte.

During the drill Herb Switzer, N4BXB, of Shelby noted several weaknesses in the communications system installed at the National Weather Service

office. The Cleveland County Amateur Radio Service says that it will be working with other local amateur radio operators to resolve these problems before the severe weather season begins.

Bryan McAvoy is the Forecaster at the National Weather Service Office in Greer North Carolina. He says that he hopes to schedule more drills like this one involving the regions ham radio community in the not to distant future.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Randy Ross, KI4ZJI, in Shelby, North Carolina.

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The National Weather Service has come to rely on the ham radio as their primary means of communication between their office and those storm spotters during severe weather outbreaks. (KI4ZJI, ARNewsline(tm))

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PUBLIC SERVICE: HAMS NEEDED FOR MAY 3rd BREAD WALK FOR HUNGER IN BOSTON

Organizers of the ham radio support group for help for this year's Project Bread Walk for Hunger in Boston Massachusetts are looking for some volunteers. The date of the event is May 3rd and this will be the 41st running of the event.

According to a web posting by Eric Horwitz, KA1NCF, the Amateur Radio Communications Coordinator for the event hams are needed to provide communications support along the 20 mile walk. If you are interested in helping out this year, go to <http://wfh.mmra.org> and fill out the signup form. Questions and comments go by e-mail to w4h <at> nsradio <dot>org (Via e-mail)

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RADIO LAW: FCC SAYS NO TO PRISON CELLPHONE JAMMING DEMO

The FCC has told a company that manufactures cellular telephone jamming equipment that it cannot demonstrate it here in the United States. In a March 17th letter to CellAntenna Corporation of Coral Springs, Florida, the FCC says that it is denying the company's request to conduct a demonstration of equipment designed to block unauthorized wireless telephone calls by prisoners at the Pine Prairie Correctional Center in Pine Prairie, Louisiana.

CellAntenna had wanted to demonstrate that its gear could be used by prison officials to block calls being made by prisoners with illicitly obtained cellular phones. It has placed a request before the regulatory agency for a demonstration to take place on Friday, March 20th. CellAntenna's request indicated that the demonstration would use directional jamming that can be operated so that its impact is limited to a jail or prison, without interfering with other cellular phones or lines of communication beyond the walls of the correctional facility, or otherwise outside the established test area.

But a number of entities challenged the test. Among them was the politically powerful Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association which argued that the proposed demonstration is prohibited by Section 333 of the Communications Act. Others opposing the test stated that CellAntenna could not conclusive show that its gear would not cause interruption to cellular service outside the prison walls and could lead to inadvertent jamming of calls for emergency assistance.

In the end the FCC denied the request based on the fact that its rules state that it is against the law to manufacture, import or sell any form of device here in the United States that deliberately interferes with radio communications. It also notes that CellAntenna, is not a federal entity subject to any statutory exemption to this rule. As such, the CellAntenna request to hold the demonstration has been denied. (FCC)

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RADIO SPECIALTIES: WEBCAM WATCHES CONSTRUCTION OF 1049 FT MIAMI TOWER

Meantime, a webcam in Florida is bringing the construction of WPLG-TV's new 1049 foot high candelabra tower in Miami, right to your computer screen.

Billed as one of the tallest such towers in the South-Eastern United States, each individual section is thirty feet long with the heaviest section weighing in at about 26,500 lbs. Its total weight of 1,013,450 pounds and it features a 12 foot wide face with a two person elevator to take repair crews to the top.

Once completed it will permit 50 foot center to center separation between antennas. Besides WPLG-TV, stations WSVN-TV and WLYF-FM will be moving to the new tower.

Fabrication of the new tower began on March 12th. The webcam lets anyone watch the work progress at <http://tinyurl.com/d9vw8l> (CGC, Gary Blau)

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WITH THE LEAGUE: ARRL SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR FOUR AWARDS

The ARRL is seeking nominations for its Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award, Microwave Development Award, Technical Service Award and Technical Innovation Award. Each of these honors covers a different aspect of ham radio. Full details on each along with nominating rules for each are at the ARRL's website. Its in cyberspace at www.arrl.org. (ARRL)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: NEAR-FEST IN NH IN MAY

Turning to the ham radio social scene, word that the 2009 New England Amateur Radio Festival or Near Fest is slated for May 1st and 2nd at the Deerfield New Hampshire Fairgrounds. In addition to the hundreds of hams tailgating in the flea market there will be three huge buildings filled with commercial vendors and dealers. The gates open at 9:00 AM for both buyers and sellers with talk in on the K1JEK 146.700 MHz repeater., Talk in is also on 146.52 MHz simplex and 3.885 MHz on SSB. And during the hamfest

you can also tune your car radio to FM 95.1 or AM 650 for continuous news and entertainment More information is on-line at www.near-fest.com. (Via QRZ.com)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: HEART OF GEORGIA HAMFEST MAY 9TH

And Byron Georgia will play host to the 2009 Heart of Georgia Hamfest on May 9th. This event is sponsored by the combined efforts of the Central Georgia Amateur Radio Club, the Middle Georgia Radio Association, the Byron Middle School Amateur Radio Club and the Macon Amateur Radio Club. The venue is the Byron Middle School and there will be free tailgating with paid admission and on-site license testing will be available. For more information please take your web browser to www.heartofgeorgiahamfest.com and to download the hamfest flyer. (QRZ.com)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: QCWA MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT HAMVENTION 2009

And in a change from past tradition, this years Quarter Century Wireless Association Annual Membership Meeting will be held as a forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention. QCWA members and those interested in becoming members are invited to the session that takes place on Sunday May 17th at 9:15 a.m. Eastern Daylight time.

On hand to answer your questions will be QCWA President Bob Roske, N0UF, along with many of the organizations directors. In years past these meetings were held only at QCWA conventions and meetings. Bringing the meeting to Hamvention means that more amateurs can find out first hand what the Quarter Century wireless Association is and what it offers to the ham radio community. (QCWA, ARNewsline(tm))

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WITH NEWSLINE: ARNEWSLINE NOW ON FACEBOOK

Amateur Radio Newsline is now on Facebook. After looking at all the social networking sites we decided that the format of Facebook is the best way for direct interaction with you, our listeners.

Already several of your favorite Newsline reporters and anchors are there . Others will be joining over the next several weeks.

If you are already on Facebook we invite you to join and "friend" the Amateur Radio Newsline page. You will find it by searching the Organizations, Clubs and Societies area of Facebook or simply taking your web browser to the U-R-L you will find at:

www.facebook.com/group.php?gidW437231871#/group.php?gidV461269209&ref=nf

We look forward to meeting many of you there. (ARNewsline)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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ON THE AIR: 5 MHZ IMPROVEMENTS

As the end of March approaches, there are several items of interest to High Frequency operators around the world, most of which concern the 5 MHz band. Here's Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, in Nottingham, England, with the details:

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UK operators holding a 5MHz NoV may like to note that after dark propagation on the East-West path to the USA peaks when America also falls into darkness. To check the condition of the path, European hams should listen out for AM broadcasting stations WCCR in Nashville on 5,070kHz and WWRB on 5,050kHz which is also in Tennessee. Both employ 100kW.

American operators can check the path in the opposite direction by listening for the USB AIRMET stations RAF VOLMET on 5,450kHz and Shannon VOLMET on 5,505kHz.

UK operators should find US amateurs congregating on 5,403.5kHz around 01.00 to 02.00 GMT.

The path to the Far East can be checked by listening out, after sunset, for the Chinese Standard Frequency station BPM. It identifies at regular intervals in Morse code on 5,000kHz. The chance of a contact on 5MHz in this direction is remote, but one or two American radio amateurs are believed to have authorization to operate from military bases in the Pacific.

I'm Jeramy Boot, G4NJH.

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Another important event at the end of March is that the portion of the 40 meter now infested with shortwave broadcasters is supposed to revert exclusively to amateur radio. Whether or not all of the stations now there will disappear remains to be seen. (GB2RS)

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RADIO AND SPACE: AIR FOCE PERMITS AMSAT TO CONTINUE KEPS

AMSAT North America has received approval from the Air Force Space Command

to continue re-distribution of Keplerian elements data sourced from the Space Track website.. This means that the AMSAT version of these Keplerian Elements in verbose format and the 2-line format can be freely distributed by those who receive them from AMSAT. The agreement covers the period of April 1, 2009 to April 1, 2010 (WA5QGD, ANS)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT-UK SPACE COLLOQUIUM IN JULY WANTS SPEAKERS

The 2009 AMSAT-UK Colloquium is now slated for Friday July 24th to Sunday 26th July at the University of Manchester. This 3 day event attracts an international audience of those involved in building and operating Amateur Radio satellites and CubeSats.

Now, AMSAT-UK is inviting speakers on topics regarding amateur radio space and associated activities for this event. They are also invited to submit papers for the "Proceedings" document which will be published at the same time but note that printed papers are not mandatory.

Either way, submissions should go to G4DPZ via e-mail to david dot johnson at blackpepper dot co dot uk. More about the 2009 Colloquium and previous events can be found at <http://www.uk.amsat.org/colloquium> (AMSAT-UK, ANS)

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RADIOSPORTS: TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FOR VISALIA IDXC CONTEST DINNER

If you are planning to attend the 2009 International DX Convention in Visalia, California, you can now purchase your tickets to the Contest Dinner on Friday night, April 17th. The venue is the Oak room at the Holiday Inn, Visalia. Tickets are \$38 each or \$360 for a table with 10 seats paid in advance.

This year guest speaker will be Tim Duffy, K3LR, who will speak on "The Never-Ending Challenge of Improving Your ContestStation." Also, the 2008 C-Q-P Awards will be presented. For complete details on the dinner banquet, please visit www.elbloggotorcido.com/contest-dinner-2009.html (OPDX)

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DX

In DX, some welcome news. Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager, reports that the just completed K5D Desecheo Island 2009 has been approved for DXCC Credit.

VK9GMW will be active from Mellish Reef in a low-key DXpedition between March 22nd and April 6th. The operation will have a strong low-band focus. QSL via HA7RY direct, by the Bureau or using Logbook to the World. Also, please note that the dates of this operation are approximate and subject to change with little notice.

F5TGR will be active as stroke FG from Guadeloupe between 14th and 28th March. Look for him from 40m up to 10m using CW and SSB. QSL via F5TGR.

LT9L will operate from the shores of Lake Luna in Argentina. Activity will be on the 80, 40, 20 and 15 meter bands using CW, SSB, PSK, RTTY and SSTV. QSL via EA5FL to the address at qrz.com.

An international DXpedition will activate Lord Howe Island between March 23rd and the 3rd of April. It will use the callsign VK9LA. QSL this one to VK9LA in care of the Oceania Amateur Radio DX Group in Australia.

2E1EUB will be active on all satellites from North-East Scotland for the week starting March 21, 2009. Check out qrz.com under 2M1EUB listing for more information.

I2AE says that he plan to be active from several Danish islands between May 1st and the 15th. No callsign has yet been mentioned but it is suggested that you monitor mainly 7.050 to 7.060 and 14.250 to 14.260 MHz during that time frame.

Lastly, a chance for some 6 meter contacts across the Atlantic pond. This with word that the RSGB 50MHz Activity Contest runs from 20.00 to 22.30 UTC on March 24th. This contests permits participants to use all modes. If you make a contact, QSL the stations as they direct you on the air.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE AMERICAN BOY

And finally this week, a quick look back at the history of amateur radio and some of the politics that kept it alive after the first world war. It's a story that might best be called The American Boy and here's Jim Linton. VK3PC:

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The 3rd National Radio Conference was held in Washington DC in October 1924.

In the chair was Secretary of Commerce, Herbert Hoover who in his opening address said, "Nor have we overlooked in these previous conferences the voice or interest of the amateur, embracing as he does that most beloved party in the United States - the American boy.

"He is represented at this conference, and we must have a peculiar affection for his rights and interests.

"I know nothing that has contributed more to sane joy and definite instruction than has radio.

"Through it the American boy to-day knows more about electricity and its usefulness than all of the grown-ups of the last generation.

"I have during the past year somewhat extended this wave band. I hope that this conference may dismiss the objections that have been raised to this action."

A member of the conference coordinating committee was the ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim, the "Father of Organised Amateur Radio" in the United States.

At the end of the conference amateurs substantially retained their frequency bands - spectrum we know today as 160m, 80m, 40m, 20m and 6m.

The conference recognized that rapid changes were being imposed by scientific discovery and invention.

It looked at the emerging trends in broadcasting that was making radio available to every home in the country.

Interference was a hot topic with references to electrical devices and methods to reduce their impact on radio reception.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Jim Linton VK3PC.

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The internet address of the conference report can be found in the text edition of this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline bulletin. It makes for some rather interesting reading.

(DO NOT READ: <http://earlyradiohistory.us/1924conf.htm>) (VK3PC)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

Also be sure to mark April 18th as this year World Amateur Radio Day. World Amateur Radio Day will focus on the hobby as it empowers people and supports communities by providing emergency communication as well as public service oriented interaction for community and other special events.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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